

Occupational Health Indicators

Surveillance indicators allow a state to compare its health or risk status with that of other states, evaluate trends over time, and guide priorities for prevention and intervention efforts. This document presents 20 indicators that describe the occupational health status of the working population. The indicators presented represent the consensus view of state and NIOSH representatives, and are intended as advisory to the states.

I. Occupational injury and illness indicators (13 indicators). These are indicators using occupational injury and illness data sources that are available in the majority of states. Three of these indicators (i, ii and iii) are published annually by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) at the national level.

A. Occupational morbidity

- i. Non-fatal work-related injuries and illnesses reported by employers
- ii. Work-related amputations with days away from work reported by employers
- iii. Work-related musculoskeletal disorders with days away from work reported by employers
- iv. Work-related hospitalizations
- v. Hospitalizations from work-related burns
- vi. Hospitalizations from or with pneumoconiosis
- vii. Acute work-related pesticide-associated illnesses and injury reported to poison control centers
- viii. Incidence of malignant mesothelioma
- ix. Work-related low back disorder hospitalizations
- x. State workers' compensation claims for amputations with lost work-time
- xi. State workers' compensation claims for carpal tunnel syndrome with lost work-time

B. Occupational Mortality

- i. Fatal work-related injuries
- ii. Mortality from or with pneumoconiosis

II. National and state-level occupational exposure and hazard indicators (4 indicators). These indicators use occupational exposure data or hazard data sources that are consistently collected between states and at the national level. These would include laboratory screening result for exposures such as blood lead, number of workers employed in industries or occupations with high rates of work-related injuries or acute traumatic fatalities.

- A. Elevated blood lead levels among adults
- B. Percentage of workers employed in industries at high risk for occupational morbidity
- C. Percentage of workers employed in occupations at high risk for occupational morbidity
- D. Percentage of workers employed in industries and occupations at high risk for occupational mortality

III. National and state-level occupational intervention indicators (2 indicators). These indicators use data sources related to interventions that are consistently collected between states and at the national level. These would include occupational health professionals working within a state, the number of OSHA inspections conducted within a state.

- A. Occupational safety and health professionals
- B. OSHA enforcement activities